

White County Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Plan

Plan Approved:
16-NOV-15

Revised:
18-NOV-15

Local Resolution

**LOCAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
JOINT RESOLUTION**

**CITY OF CLEVELAND, CITY OF HELEN, WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS AND WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, during and following periods of emergency resulting from natural or manmade disaster, there is a need for a local emergency management director to assume direct responsibility for the organization, administration and operations of local emergency operations;

AND WHEREAS, prior to such an emergency situation in White County, there is a need for a plan of action, training and education to prepare the public and private agencies and the citizens of White County in the event of a disaster;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing authorities of White County, the City of Cleveland, the City of Helen, and the White County Board of Education, hereby enacts the following resolution to restate and redefine the position and authority of the Emergency Management Director and to adopt an updated Local Emergency Management Agency Plan, all as hereinafter defined.

SECTION I - DEFINITION

"Emergency Management means the preparation for the carrying out of all emergency functions other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible to prevent, minimize, and repair injury and damage resulting from emergencies, energy emergencies, disasters, or the imminent threat thereof, of manmade or natural origin"... "These functions include, without limitation, fire-fighting services; police services (public safety); medical and health services; rescue; engineering; warning services; communications; defense from radiological, chemical, and other special weapons; evacuation of persons from stricken areas; emergency welfare services; emergency transportation; [nuclear power] plant protection; temporary restoration of public service utility services; and other functions related to civilian protection, together with all other activities necessary or incidental to the preparation for and carrying out of the foregoing functions." (*Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, As Amended December 1992, Chapter 3, Article 1, 38-3-3*)

SECTION II - LOCAL ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

"In cases where a county has an organization for emergency management, such organization shall include participation by each city within the county unless the governing authority of any particular city elects to implement its own organization for emergency management. Any two or more of the above-mentioned political subdivisions may, with the approval of the director, contract with each other so as to form one emergency management organization for the entire area included in the bounds of the contracting political subdivisions. The executive officer or governing body of the political subdivision is authorized to nominate a local director to the director of emergency management who shall have the authority to make the appointment." Upon appointment, the local emergency management agency director shall have direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operations of the local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of the executive officer or governing bodies and shall serve at the pleasure of such executive officer or governing body. The local director shall:

- maintain an emergency management office in a building owned or leased by the political subdivision and the director or designee shall be available or on call at all times beyond working hours;
- develop, in conjunction with public and private agencies/organizations that have responsibility for designated emergency support functions, plans for responding to and recovering from disasters and/or emergencies;
- respond to emergency scenes, command posts, and operation centers;
- coordinate emergency response of public and private agencies and organizations;
- attend training and meetings convened by the appointing authority or the (state emergency management) director;
- develop or cause to be developed, in collaboration with other public and private agencies within the state, mutual aid arrangements, consistent with state plans and programs, for reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in case of emergency or disaster too great to be dealt with unassisted; and
- enter into mutual aid agreements, subject to approval of the Governor, with emergency management agencies or organizations in other states for reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in case of emergency or disaster too great to be dealt with unassisted (Chapter 3, Article 3, 38-3-27 and 38-3-29.)

SECTION III - LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS

Each political subdivision shall have the emergency management power and authority to: appropriate and expend funds; execute contracts; obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance to victims; direct and coordinate development of local emergency management plans and programs in accordance with federal and state policies and plans; appoint, employ, remove or provide, with or without compensation, chiefs of services, warning personnel, rescue teams, auxiliary fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers; establish a primary and one or more secondary control centers to serve as command posts; and acquire, temporarily or permanently, by purchase, lease or otherwise [identify] sites required for installation of temporary housing units and prepare or equip such sites. (Chapter 3, Article 2, 38-3-27)

SECTION IV-LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A county or municipality shall be entitled to receive [federal disaster] funds if the local emergency management organization has met all state and federal requirements to receive such funds. Qualifications include: legal establishment of an emergency management organization by local ordinance or resolution; a legally appointed local director who has been endorsed and appointed by the Georgia Emergency Management Director; an approved emergency and disaster plan with all applicable annexes [Emergency Support Functions]; and an approved fiscal year program and other necessary compliance documents. (Chapter 3, Article 2 38-3-27.)

SECTION V - IMMUNITY OF STATE AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Neither the state nor any political subdivision of the state, nor the agents or representatives of the state or any political subdivision thereof, shall be liable for personal injury or property damage sustained by any person appointed or acting as a volunteer emergency management worker or member of any agency engaged in emergency management activity." Immunity does not apply in cases of willful misconduct, gross negligence or bad faith. (Chapter 3, Article 2, 38-3-35)

SECTION VI - LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY PLAN

The White County Emergency Management Agency has developed, in partnership with local governments and community agencies/organizations which have primary and support responsibilities for Emergency Support Functions, an approved emergency management plan. A copy of this plan and/or major revisions are being submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency by the local Emergency Management Agency Director, in coordination with the undersigned local government officials or legally appointed successors. It is understood that the Georgia Emergency Management Agency will review this plan for compliance with all federal and state requirements.

As authorized local government officials, we understand and agree to the requirements of the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, as amended, as stated in this resolution.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by all governing authorities of "White County".

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Approved and adopted this 5th day of Nov, 2012 by Resolution No. 2012-23

By:

Travis Turner, Chairman

Attest:

Shanda Murphy
Shanda Murphy, County Clerk

CITY OF CLEVELAND

Approved and adopted this 5 day of Nov, 2012 by Resolution No. 2012-14

By:

Donald Stanley
Donald Stanley, Mayor

Attest:

Connie Tracas
Connie Tracas, City Clerk

CITY OF HELEN

Approved and adopted this 6 day of November, 2012 by Resolution No. 2012-11-1

By: Judy Holloway
Judy Holloway, Mayor

Attest: Marilyn Chastain
Marilyn Chastain, Deputy City Clerk

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approved and adopted this 15 day of November, 2012 by Resolution No. 2012-

By: Kendall Brock
Kendall Brock, Chairman

Attest: Sandra Dorsey
Sandra Dorsey

White County
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Local Resolution

Record of Revisions

Distribution List

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PREFACE

This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) describes the management and coordination of resources and personnel during periods of major emergency. This comprehensive local emergency operations plan is developed to ensure mitigation and preparedness, appropriate response and timely recovery from natural and man made hazards which may affect residents of White County.

This plan supersedes the Emergency Operations Plan dated from old eLEOP. It incorporates guidance from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) as well as lessons learned from disasters and emergencies that have threatened White County. The Plan will be updated at the latest, every four years. The plan:

- Defines emergency response in compliance with the State-mandated Emergency Operations Plan process.
- Establishes emergency response policies that provide Departments and Agencies with guidance for the coordination and direction of municipal plans and procedures.
- Provides a basis for unified training and response exercises.

The plan consists of the following components:

- The Basic Plan describes the structure and processes comprising a county approach to incident management designed to integrate the efforts of municipal governments, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations. The Basic Plan includes the: purpose, situation, assumptions, concept of operations, organization, assignment of responsibilities, administration, logistics, planning and operational activities.
- Appendices provide other relevant supporting information, including terms, definitions, and authorities.
- Emergency Support Function Annexes detail the missions, policies, structures, and responsibilities of County agencies for coordinating resource and programmatic support to municipalities during Incidents of Critical Significance.
- Support Annexes prescribe guidance and describe functional processes and administrative requirements necessary to ensure efficient and effective implementation of incident management objectives.
- Incident Annexes address contingency or hazard situations requiring specialized application of the EOP. The Incident Annexes describe the missions, policies, responsibilities, and coordination processes that govern the interaction of public and private entities engaged in incident management and emergency response operations across a spectrum of potential hazards. Due to security precautions and changing nature of their operational procedures, these Annexes, their supporting plans, and operational supplements are published separately.

The following is a summary of the 15 Emergency Support Functions:

1. *Transportation*: Support and assist municipal, county, private sector, and voluntary organizations requiring transportation for an actual or potential Incident of Critical Significance.
2. *Communications*: Ensures the provision of communications support to municipal, county, and private-sector response efforts during an Incident of Critical Significance.
3. *Public Works and Engineering*: Coordinates and organizes the capabilities and resources of the municipal and county governments to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, engineering expertise, construction management, and other support to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and/or recover from an Incident of Critical Significance.
4. *Firefighting*: Enable the detection and suppression of wild-land, rural, and urban fires resulting from, or occurring coincidentally with an Incident of Critical Significance.
5. *Emergency Management Services*: Responsible for supporting overall activities of the County Government for County incident management.
6. *Mass Care, Housing and Human Services*: Supports County-wide, municipal, and non-governmental organization efforts to address non-medical mass care, housing, and human services needs of individuals and/or families impacted by Incidents of Critical Significance.
7. *Resource Support*: Supports volunteer services, County agencies, and municipal governments tracking, providing, and/or requiring resource support before, during, and/or after Incidents of Critical Significance.
8. *Public Health and Medical Services*: Provide the mechanism for coordinated County assistance to supplement municipal resources in response to public health and medical care needs (to include veterinary and/or animal health issues when appropriate) for potential or actual Incidents of Critical Significance and/or during a developing potential health and medical situation.
9. *Search and Rescue*: Rapidly deploy components of the National US Response System to provide specialized life-saving assistance to municipal authorities during an Incident of Critical Significance.
10. *Hazardous Materials*: Coordinate County support in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or uncontrolled release of oil or hazardous materials during Incidents of Critical Significance.
11. *Agriculture and Natural Resources*: supports County and authorities and other agency efforts to address: Provision of nutrition assistance; control and eradication of an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic

disease; assurance of food safety and food security and; protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties.

12. *Energy*: Restore damaged energy systems and components during a potential of actual Incident of Critical Significance.
13. *Public Safety and Security Services*: Integrates County public safety and security capabilities and resources to support the full range of incident management activities associated with potential or actual Incidents of Critical Significance.
14. *Long Term Recovery and Mitigation*: Provides a framework for County Government support to municipal governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector designed to enable community recovery from the long-term consequences of an Incident of Critical Significance.
15. *External Affairs*: Ensures that sufficient County assets are deployed to the field during a potential or actual Incident of Critical Significance to provide accurate, coordinated, and timely information to affected audiences, including governments, media, the private sector, and the populace.

BASIC PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

Summary

This plan establishes a framework for emergency management planning and response to: prevent emergency situations; reduce vulnerability during disasters; establish capabilities to protect residents from effects of crisis; respond effectively and efficiently to actual emergencies; and provide for rapid recovery from any emergency or disaster affecting the local jurisdiction and White County.

This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is predicated on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which integrates the capabilities and resources of various municipal jurisdictions, incident management and emergency response disciplines, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector into a cohesive, coordinated, and seamless framework for incident management. The EOP, using the NIMS, is an all-hazards plan that provides the structure and mechanisms for policy and operational coordination for incident management. Consistent with the model provided in the NIMS, the EOP can be partially or fully implemented in the context of a threat, anticipation of a significant event, or the response to a significant event. Selective implementation through the activation of one or more of the systems components allows maximum flexibility in meeting the unique operational and information-sharing requirements of the situation at hand and enabling effective interaction between various entities. The EOP, as the core operational plan for incident management, establishes county-level coordinating structures, processes, and protocols that will be incorporated into certain existing interagency incident- or hazard-specific plans (such as the Hurricane Plan) that is designed to implement specific statutory authorities and responsibilities of various departments and agencies in particular contingency.

Purpose

The purpose of the EOP is to establish a comprehensive, countywide, all-hazards approach to incident management across a spectrum of activities including prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The EOP incorporates best practices and procedures from various incident management disciplines - homeland security, emergency management, law enforcement, firefighting, hazardous materials response, public works, public health, emergency medical services, and responder and recovery worker health and safety - and integrates them into a unified coordinating structure. The EOP provides the framework for interaction with municipal governments; the private sector; and NGOs in the context of incident prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. It describes capabilities and resources and establishes responsibilities, operational processes, and protocols to help protect from natural and manmade hazards; save lives; protect public health, safety, property, and the environment; and reduce adverse psychological consequences and disruptions. Finally, the EOP serves as the foundation for the development of detailed supplemental plans and procedures to effectively and efficiently implement incident management activities and assistance in the context of specific types of incidents.

The EOP, using the NIMS, establishes mechanisms to:

- Maximize the integration of incident-related prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities;
- Improve coordination and integration of County, municipal, private-sector, and nongovernmental organization partners;
- Maximize efficient utilization of resources needed for effective incident management and Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources protection and restoration;
- Improve incident management communications and increase situational awareness across jurisdictions and between the public and private sectors;
- Facilitate emergency mutual aid and emergency support to municipal governments;
- Provide a proactive and integrated response to catastrophic events; and
- Address linkages to other incident management and emergency response plans developed for specific types of incidents or hazards.

A number of plans are linked to the EOP in the context of disasters or emergencies, but remain as stand-alone documents in that they also provide detailed protocols for responding to routine incidents that normally are managed by County agencies without the need for supplemental coordination. The EOP also incorporates other existing emergency response and incident management plans (with appropriate modifications and revisions) as integrated components, operational supplements, or supporting tactical plans.

This plan consists of the following components:

Scope and Applicability

The EOP covers the full range of complex and constantly changing requirements in anticipation of or in response to threats or acts of terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies. The EOP also provides the basis to initiate long-term community recovery and mitigation activities.

The EOP establishes interagency and multi-jurisdictional mechanisms for involvement in and coordination of, incident management operations.

This plan distinguishes between incidents that require County coordination, termed disasters or emergencies, and the majority of incidents that are handled by responsible jurisdictions or agencies through other established authorities and existing plans.

In addition, the EOP:

- Recognizes and incorporates the various jurisdictional and functional authorities of departments and agencies; municipal governments; and private-sector organizations in incident management.

- Details the specific incident management roles and responsibilities of the departments and agencies involved in incident management as defined in relevant statutes and directives.
- Establishes the multi-agency organizational structures and processes required to implement the authorities, roles, and responsibilities for incident management.

This plan is applicable to all departments and agencies that may be requested to provide assistance or conduct operations in the context of actual or potential disasters or emergencies.

Disasters or emergencies are high-impact events that require a coordinated and effective response by an appropriate combination of County, municipal, private-sector, and nongovernmental entities in order to save lives, minimize damage, and provide the basis for long-term community recovery and mitigation activities.

Key Concepts

This section summarizes key concepts that are reflected throughout the EOP.

- Systematic and coordinated incident management, including protocols for:
 - Coordinated action;
 - Alert and notification;
 - Mobilization of County resources to augment existing municipal capabilities;
 - Operating under differing threats or threat levels; and
 - Integration of crisis and consequence management functions.
- Proactive notification and deployment of resources in anticipation of or in response to catastrophic events in coordination and collaboration with municipal governments and private entities when possible.
- Organizing interagency efforts to minimize damage, restore impacted areas to pre-incident conditions if feasible, and/or implement programs to mitigate vulnerability to future events.
- Coordinating worker safety and health, private-sector involvement, and other activities that are common to the majority of incidents (see Support Annexes).
- Organizing ESFs to facilitate the delivery of critical resources, assets, and assistance. Departments and agencies are assigned to lead or support ESFs based on authorities, resources, and capabilities.
- Providing mechanisms for vertical and horizontal coordination, communications, and information sharing in response to threats or incidents. These mechanisms

facilitate coordination among municipal entities and the County Government, as well as between the public and private sectors.

- Facilitating support to County departments and agencies acting under the requesting department or agency's own authorities.
- Developing detailed supplemental operations, tactical, and hazard-specific contingency plans and procedures.
- Providing the basis for coordination of interdepartmental and municipal planning, training, exercising, assessment, coordination, and information exchange.

II. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

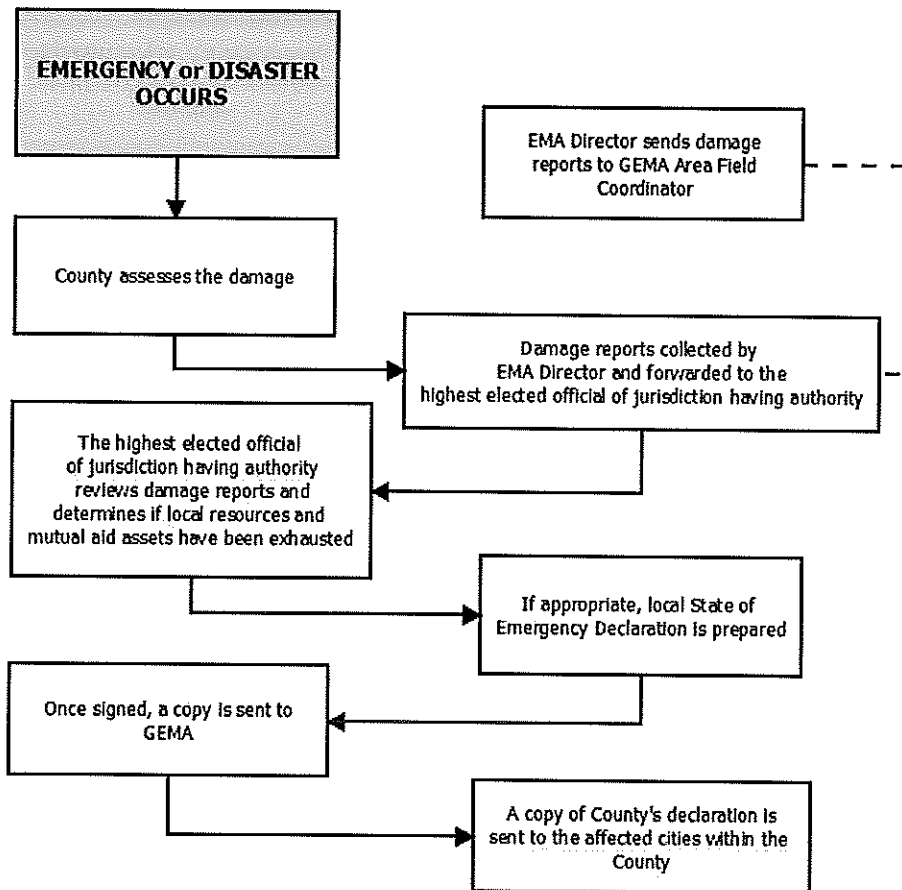
The EOP is based on the planning assumptions and considerations presented in this section.

- Incidents are typically managed at the lowest possible organizational and jurisdictional level.
- Incident management activities will be initiated and conducted using the principles contained in the NIMS and the ICS.
- The combined expertise and capabilities of government at all levels, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations will be required to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies.
- Disasters and emergencies require the White County Emergency Management Agency to coordinate operations and/or resources, and may:
 - Occur at any time with little or no warning in the context of a general or specific threat or hazard;
 - Require significant information-sharing at the unclassified and classified levels across multiple jurisdictions and between the public and private sectors;
 - Involve single or multiple jurisdictions;
 - Have significant regional impact and/or require significant regional information sharing, resource coordination, and/or assistance;
 - Span the spectrum of incident management to include prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery;
 - Involve multiple, highly varied hazards or threats on a regional scale;
 - Result in numerous casualties; fatalities; displaced people; property loss; disruption of normal life support systems, essential public services, and basic infrastructure; and significant damage to the environment;
 - Impact critical infrastructures across sectors;
 - Overwhelm capabilities of municipal governments, and private-sector infrastructure owners and operators;
 - Attract a sizeable influx of independent, spontaneous volunteers and supplies;
 - Require extremely short-notice asset coordination and response timelines; and
 - Require prolonged, sustained incident management operations and support activities.

- Top priorities for incident management are to:
 - Save lives and protect the health and safety of the public, responders, and recovery workers;
 - Ensure security of the county;
 - Prevent an imminent incident, including acts of terrorism, from occurring;
 - Protect and restore critical infrastructure and key resources;
 - Conduct law enforcement investigations to resolve the incident, apprehend the perpetrators, and collect and preserve evidence for prosecution and/or attribution;
 - Protect property and mitigate the damage and impact to individuals, communities, and the environment; and
 - Facilitate recovery of individuals, families, businesses, governments, and the environment.
- Deployment of resources and incident management actions during an actual or potential terrorist incident are conducted in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Departments and agencies at all levels of government and certain NGOs, such as the American Red Cross, may be required to deploy to disaster areas or emergency events on short notice to provide timely and effective mutual aid and/or intergovernmental assistance.
- The degree of County involvement in incident operations depends largely upon the specific authority or jurisdiction. Other factors that may be considered include:
 - The municipal needs and/or requests for external support, or ability to manage the incident;
 - The economic ability of the affected entity to recover from the incident;
 - The type or location of the incident;
 - The severity and magnitude of the incident; and
 - The need to protect the public health or welfare or the environment.
- Departments and agencies support these mission in accordance with authorities and guidance and are expected to provide:
 - Initial and/or ongoing response, when warranted, under their own authorities and funding;

- Alert, notification, pre-positioning, and timely delivery of resources to enable the management of potential and actual disasters or emergencies; and
 - Proactive support for catastrophic or potentially catastrophic incidents using protocols for expedited delivery of resources.
-
- For disasters or emergencies that are Presidentially declared, state and/or Federal support is delivered in accordance with relevant provisions of the Stafford Act. (Note that while all Presidentially declared disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act are considered incidents of critical significance, not all incidents necessarily result in disaster or emergency declarations under the Stafford Act.)

Emergency Declaration Process



It is anticipated and expected that if the emergency or disaster is obviously widespread and all local resources mutual aid assets have already been exhausted, the highest elected official of jurisdiction having authority can make a declaration without waiting for a report regarding damages.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Local Government Responsibilities

Police, fire, public health and medical, emergency management, public works, environmental response, and other personnel are often the first to arrive and the last to leave an incident site. In some instances, a County agency in the area may act as a first responder, and the assets of County agencies may be used to advise or assist municipal officials in accordance with agency authorities and procedures. Mutual aid agreements provide mechanisms to mobilize and employ resources from neighboring jurisdictions to support the incident command. When resources and capabilities are overwhelmed, the County may request State assistance under a Governors disaster or emergency declaration. Summarized below are the responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer.

A municipal mayor or city or County Chairman or their designee, as a jurisdictions chief executive, is responsible for the public safety and welfare of the people of that jurisdiction. The Chief Executive Officer:

- Is responsible for coordinating resources to address the full spectrum of actions to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from incidents involving all hazards including terrorism, natural disasters, accidents, and other contingencies;
- Dependent upon law, has extraordinary powers to suspend laws and ordinances, such as to establish a curfew, direct evacuations, and, in coordination with the health authority, to order a quarantine;
- Provides leadership and plays a key role in communicating to the public, and in helping people, businesses, and organizations cope with the consequences of any type of incident within the jurisdiction;
- Negotiates and enters into mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions to facilitate resource-sharing; and
- Requests State and, if necessary, Federal assistance through the Governor of the State when the jurisdictions capabilities have been exceeded or exhausted.

Emergency Support Functions

The EOP applies a functional approach that groups the capabilities of municipal and county departments and some volunteer and non-government organizations into ESFs to provide the planning, support, resources, program implementation, and emergency services that are most likely to be needed during disaster or emergency incidents. The County response to actual or potential disasters or emergencies is typically provided through the full or partial activation of the ESF structure as necessary. The ESFs serve as the coordination mechanism to provide assistance to municipal governments or to County departments and agencies conducting missions of primary County responsibility.

Each ESF is comprised of primary and support agencies. The EOP identifies primary agencies on the basis of authorities, resources, and capabilities. Support agencies are assigned based on resources and capabilities in a given functional area. The resources provided by the ESFs reflect categories identified in the NIMS. ESFs are expected to support one another in carrying out their respective roles and responsibilities. Additional discussion on roles and responsibilities of ESF primary agencies, and support agencies can be found in the introduction to the ESF Annexes.

Note that not all disaster or emergency incidents result in the activation of all ESFs. It is possible that an incident can be adequately addressed by agencies through activation of certain EOP elements without the activation of ESFs. Similarly, operational security considerations may dictate that activation of EOP elements be kept to a minimum, particularly in the context of certain terrorism prevention activities.

Nongovernmental and Volunteer Organizations

Nongovernmental and volunteer organizations collaborate with first responders, governments at all levels, and other agencies and organizations providing relief services to sustain life, reduce physical and emotional distress, and promote recovery of disaster victims when assistance is not available from other sources. For example, the American Red Cross is an NGO that provides relief at the local level and also supports the Mass Care element of ESF 6. Community-based organizations receive government funding to provide essential public health services.

The Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is a consortium of approximately 30 recognized organizations of volunteers active in disaster relief. Such entities provide significant capabilities to incident management and response efforts at all levels. For example, the wildlife rescue and rehabilitation activities conducted during a pollution emergency are often carried out by private, nonprofit organizations working with natural resource trustee agencies.

Private Sector

EOP primary and support agencies coordinate with the private sector to effectively share information, form courses of action, and incorporate available resources to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies.

Roles

The roles, responsibilities, and participation of the private sector during a disaster or emergency incident vary based on the nature of the organization and the type and impact of the incident. The roles of private-sector organizations are summarized below.

- **Impacted Organization or Infrastructure**

Private-sector organizations may be affected by direct or indirect consequences of the incident, including privately owned critical infrastructure, key resources, and those main private-sector organizations that are significant to regional economic recovery from the incident. Examples of privately owned infrastructure include transportation, telecommunications, private utilities, financial institutions, and hospitals.

- **Response Resource**
Private-sector organizations provide response resources (donated or compensated) during an incident - including specialized teams, equipment, and advanced technologies - through public-private emergency plans, mutual aid agreements, or incident specific requests from government and private-sector-volunteer initiatives.
- **Regulated and/or Responsible Party**
Owners/operators of certain regulated facilities or hazardous operations may bear responsibilities under the law for preparing for and preventing incidents from occurring, and responding to an incident once it occurs. For example, some activities are required by law or regulation to maintain emergency (incident) preparedness plans, procedures, and facilities and to perform assessments, prompt notifications, and training for a response to an incident.
- **State/Emergency Organization Member**
- Private-sector organizations may serve as active partners in emergency preparedness and response organizations and activities.

Responsibilities

Private-sector organizations support the EOP (voluntarily or to comply with applicable laws and regulations) by sharing information with the government, identifying risks, performing vulnerability assessments, developing emergency response and business continuity plans, enhancing their overall readiness, implementing appropriate prevention and protection programs, and donating or otherwise providing goods and services through contractual arrangement or government purchases to assist in response to and recovery from an incident.

Certain organizations are required by existing law and regulation to bear the cost of planning and response to incidents, regardless of cause. In the case of an Incident of Critical Significance, these private-sector organizations are expected to mobilize and employ the resources necessary and available in accordance with their plans to address the consequences of incidents at their own facilities or incidents for which they are otherwise responsible.

Response Resources

Unless the response role is inherently governmental (e.g., law enforcement, etc.), private-sector organizations are encouraged to develop and maintain capabilities to respond to and manage a complete spectrum of incidents and emergencies. The County Government maintains ongoing interaction with the critical infrastructure and key resource industries to provide coordination for prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities. When practical, or when required under law, private-sector representatives should be included in planning and exercises. In some cases, the government may direct private-sector response resources when they have contractual relationships, using government funds.

Functional Coordination

The primary agency/agencies for each ESF maintain(s) working relations with its associated private-sector counterparts through partnership committees or other means (e.g., ESF 2, Communications - telecommunications industry; ESF 10, Hazardous Materials - oil and hazardous materials industries; etc.).

Citizen Involvement

Strong partnerships with citizen groups and organizations provide support for incident management prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

The US Citizen Corps brings these groups together and focuses efforts of individuals through education, training, and volunteer service to help make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to address the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

Citizen Corps Councils implement Citizen Corps programs, which include Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, and the affiliate programs; provide opportunities for special skills and interests; develop targeted outreach for special-needs groups; and organize special projects and community events.

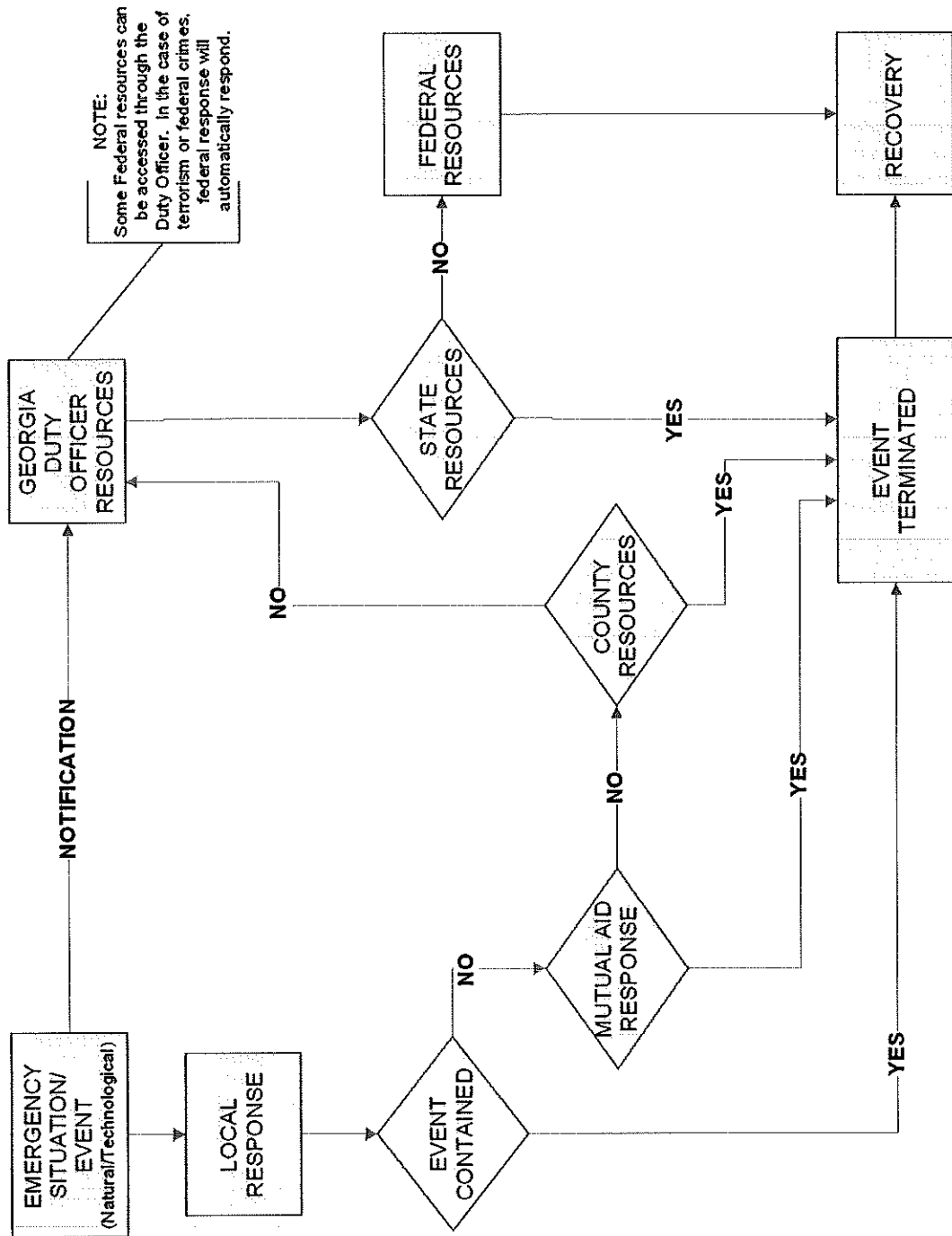
Citizen Corps Affiliate Programs expand the resources and materials available to communities through partnerships with programs and organizations that offer resources for public education, outreach, and training; represent volunteers interested in helping to make their communities safer; or offer volunteer service opportunities to support first responders, disaster relief activities, and community safety efforts.

Other programs unaffiliated with Citizen Corps also provide organized citizen involvement opportunities in support of response to major disasters and events of Critical Significance.

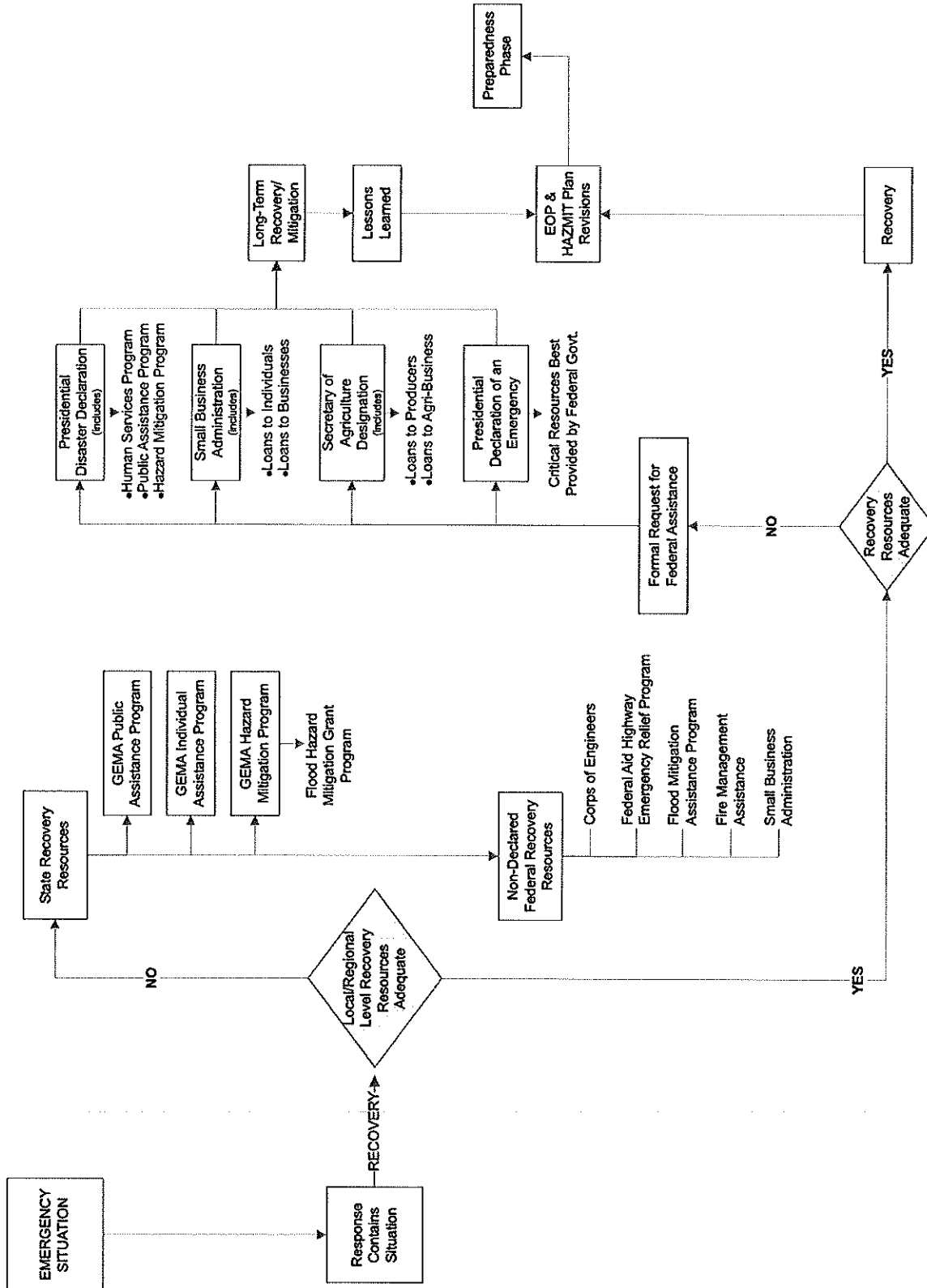
Citizen Corps

The Citizen Corps works through a Citizen Corps Council that brings together leaders from law enforcement, fire, emergency medical and other emergency management, volunteer organizations, elected officials, the private sector, and other community stakeholders.

Response Flow Chart



Recovery Flow Chart



IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Phases of Emergency Management

Mitigation

Activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident. Mitigation measures implemented prior to, during, or after an incident are intended to prevent the occurrence of an emergency, reduce the community's vulnerability and/or minimize the adverse impact of disasters or emergencies. A preventable measure, for instance, is the enforcement of building codes to minimize such situations.

Preparedness

Actions taken to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring. Preparedness involves actions taken prior to an emergency to protect lives and property and to support and enhance disaster response. Planning, training, exercises, community awareness and education are among such activities.

Response

Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. These activities include immediate actions to preserve life, property, and the environment; meet basic human needs; and maintain the social, economic, and political structure of the affected community. Also included are direction and coordination, warning, evacuation, and similar operations that help reduce casualties and damage, and speed recovery.

Recovery

The development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans and the reconstitution of government operations and services through individual, private-sector, nongovernmental, and public assistance programs. Short-term recovery includes damage assessment and the return of vital functions, such as utilities and emergency services, to minimum operating standards. When rebuilding and re-locating is due to damaged property, long-term recovery activities may continue for years.

General

- A basic premise of the EOP is that incidents are generally handled at the lowest jurisdictional level possible. Police, fire, public health, medical, emergency management, and other personnel are responsible for incident management at that level. Accordingly, in order to protect life and property from the effects of emergencies, government is responsible for all emergency management activities. When operating under such conditions, Georgia Emergency Management Agency will utilize all available resources from within the County, including voluntary and private assets, before requesting other assistance. After an emergency exceeds local capacity to respond, assistance will be requested from other jurisdictions and the state through GEMA. Upon a Presidential declaration, assistance as requested by the state may be provided through Federal ESFs and/or other resources.

- Consistent with the commitment to comprehensive emergency management, this plan addresses major emergency situations that may develop in the county. It outlines activities that address mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The plan emphasizes the capacity of Georgia Emergency Management Agency to respond and accomplish short-term recovery.
- In coordination with the county and municipal governments, Georgia Emergency Management Agency will implement interagency coordination for emergency operations.
- In coordination with the county and municipal governments and Georgia Emergency Management Agency the public information designee will release all emergency information.
- If an agency requests functional support from another agency or organization, assigned personnel and resources will be coordinated by the agency responsible for the ESF.
- All agencies will inform Georgia Emergency Management Agency of personnel assigned to work in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC.)

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

Continuity of Government/Continuity of Operations (COG/COOP)

Local governments and jurisdictions must be prepared to continue their minimum essential functions throughout the spectrum of possible threats from natural disasters through acts of terrorism. COG/COOP planning facilitates the performance of State and local government and services during an emergency that may disrupt normal operations.

- Government continuity planning facilitates the performance government and services during an emergency that may disrupt normal operations. Contingency plans for the continuity of operations of vital government functions and jurisdictions will allow agencies to continue their minimum essential operations and maintain authority. These plans include the spectrum of possible threats from natural disasters through acts of terrorism.
- Continuity of Government (COG) and Continuity of Operations (COOP) measures will establish lines of personnel succession, ensuring that authority is delegated to appropriate personnel prior to an emergency. Executive office personnel and agency managers will identify, notify, and train the individuals next in line. In addition, personnel will be familiar with alert, notification and deployment procedures to provide for command and control of response and recovery operations.
- Preservation of Records addresses the protection of essential records (e.g., vital statistics, deeds, corporation papers, operational plans, resource data, personnel and payroll records, inventory lists, laws, charters, and financial documents) by the appropriate agency following an emergency or disaster. Governments will plan for preservation of succession and delegation of authority and records necessary for carrying out governments legal and financial functions and the protection of legal and financial rights of citizens.
- The EMA director, under the direction of the local government, is responsible for the following, but not limited to:
 - Determine who is responsible for direction and control at the executive level;
 - Describe the decision process for implementing COG/COOP plans and procedures, including reliable, effective, and timely notification;
 - Establish measures for the protection of vital records;
 - Identify the agencies and personnel (including lines of succession) responsible for providing water, electricity, natural gas, sewer, and sanitation services in affected areas;
 - Identify the location of and contact points for Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMACs), Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and other cooperative agreements

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for each local agency that provide specific authorities of designated successors to direct their agencies;
- COG/COOP succession of authority plans are outlined in the White County Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Plan Annex.

VI. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Services and Resources

An emergency or disaster may place great demands on services and resources. Priority will be based on essential needs, such as food, water, and medical assistance. Other services and resources will be acquired after establishing the need.

Commitment of Services and Resources

- Local governments will commit services and resources in order to save lives and protect property. Response agencies will first utilize services and resources available through their agency or organization. Additional needs may be met from other governments, agencies and/or organizations through mutual-aid or Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). After these sources have been exhausted, additional state resources may be requested from GEMA through the EOC. White County Emergency Management Agency maintains an extensive service and resource directory that is maintained by ESF 7.
- Detailed records of expenditures are required by all agencies and organizations responding to a disaster for possible reimbursement, such as through an authorized Federal disaster declaration.

Local Involvement

White County Emergency Management Agency will coordinate the efforts of agencies and organizations responsible for plan development of ESFs and major revisions. It is strongly recommended that the agencies involved in an ESF conduct coordination meetings and develop an ESF plan for their response to each level of activation. The plan will be reviewed annually and major revisions completed, as necessary. An updated plan shall be submitted for approval to GEMA every four years through the eLEOP system. Minor revisions to the plan should be logged in on the designated form at the beginning of this plan and updated on the eLEOP system.

State Involvement

Coordination of emergency management planning and operations and service and resource sharing across jurisdictional boundaries is necessary. Consequently, the state may be able to assist in the planning process (e.g., radiological, hurricane planning). White County Emergency Management Agency will coordinate the type and level of assistance. Agencies and organizations with ESF responsibilities will be involved in such planning. This assistance should be interpreted as supporting agencies with ESF responsibilities and enhancing emergency capabilities.

Standard Operating Procedures

Most agencies and organizations within White County and its municipalities have emergency functions to perform in addition to their other duties. Each agency and/or

organization with primary ESF responsibilities, in conjunction with support agencies and organizations, will develop and maintain Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These procedures provide detailed direction and coordination of ESF responsibilities and critical emergency tasks.

Emergency Operations

Organizational responsibilities are included in each ESF.

Local Responsibilities

White County Emergency Management Agency is responsible for the following:

- Assist and advise all agencies and/or organizations in the development and coordination of ESFs to ensure necessary planning;
- Brief and train EOC personnel and volunteers as well as conduct periodic exercises to evaluate support function responsibilities;
- Manage the EOC for operational readiness;
- Coordinate with other emergency management agencies, GEMA, and other emergency response organizations;
- Maintain a list of all agency contacts including telephone, fax, and pager numbers (Refer to White County Emergency Management Agency EOC Telephone Directory);
- Obtain copies of SOPs for all ESFs;
- Update, maintain and distribute the plan and all major revisions to agencies and organizations contained on the distribution list;
- Advise White County Emergency Management Agency officials, municipalities and agencies with ESF responsibilities on the nature, magnitude, and effects of an emergency; and
- Coordinate with public information officials to provide emergency information for the public.

Agencies and organizations with ESF responsibilities will:

- Develop and maintain the ESF and SOPs, in conjunction with White County Emergency Management Agency and other supporting agencies;
- Designate agency and organization personnel with emergency authority to work on planning, mitigation, preparedness and response issues and commit resources. Staff assignments should include personnel who are trained to work in the EOC;

- Maintain an internal emergency management personnel list with telephone, fax and pager numbers;
- Provide for procurement and management of resources for emergency operations and maintain a list of such resources;
- Participate in training and exercises to evaluate and enhance ESF capabilities;
- Negotiate and prepare MOUs that impact the specific ESF, in conjunction with White County Emergency Management Agency ; and
- Establish procedures for the maintenance of records, including personnel, travel, operations and maintenance expenditures and receipts.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Plan Maintenance

White County Emergency Management Agency is the executive agent for EOP management and maintenance. The EOP will be updated periodically as required to incorporate new directives and changes based on lessons learned from exercises and actual events. This section establishes procedures for interim changes and full updates of the EOP.

• Types of Changes

Changes include additions of new or supplementary material and deletions. No proposed change should contradict or SIGN authorities or other plans contained in statute, order, or regulation.

• Coordination and Approval

Any department or agency with assigned responsibilities under the EOP may propose a change to the plan. White County Emergency Management Agency is responsible for coordinating all proposed modifications to the EOP with primary and support agencies and other stakeholders, as required. White County Emergency Management Agency will coordinate review and approval for proposed modifications as required.

• Notice of Change

After coordination has been accomplished, including receipt of the necessary signed approval supporting the final change language, White County Emergency Management Agency will issue an official Notice of Change. The notice will specify the date, number, subject, purpose, background, and action required, and provide the change language on one or more numbered and dated insert pages that will replace the modified pages in the EOP in addition to manually logged record of changes on the form at the beginning of this plan titled: Record of Revisions. Once published, the modifications will be considered part of the EOP for operational purposes pending a formal revision and redistribution of the entire document. Interim changes can be further modified or updated using the above process and through eLEOP system tools.

• Distribution

White County Emergency Management Agency will distribute Notices of Change to all participating agencies. Notices of Change to other organizations will be provided upon request.

• Redistribution of the EOP

Working toward continuous improvement, White County Emergency Management Agency is responsible for an annual review and updates of the EOP and a complete revision every four years, or more frequently if the County Commission or the Georgia Emergency Management Agency deems necessary. The review and update will consider lessons learned and best practices identified during exercises and responses to actual events, and incorporate new information technologies. White County Emergency Management Agency will distribute revised EOP documents for the purpose of interagency review and concurrence.

EOP-Supporting Documents and Standards for Other Emergency Plans

As the core plan for domestic incident management, the EOP provides the structures and processes for coordinating incident management activities for terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies. Following the guidance provided, the EOP incorporates existing emergency and incident management plans (with appropriate modifications and revisions) as integrated components of the EOP, as supplements, or as supporting operational plans. Accordingly, departments and agencies must incorporate key EOP concepts and procedures for working with EOP organizational elements when developing or updating incident management and emergency response plans. When an agency develops an interagency plan that involves events within the scope of disaster and emergency incidents, these plans are coordinated with White County Emergency Management Agency to ensure consistency with the EOP, and are incorporated into the EOP, either by reference or as a whole. White County Emergency Management Agency will maintain a complete set of current local interagency plans. Incident management and emergency response plans must include, to the extent authorized by law:

- Principles and terminology of the NIMS;
- Reporting requirements of the EOP;
- Linkages to key EOP organizational elements such as the EOC; and
- Procedures for transitioning from localized incidents to incidents that require state or federal assistance. The broader range of EOP-supporting documents includes strategic, operational, tactical, and incident specific or hazard-specific contingency plans and procedures. Strategic plans are developed based on long-range goals, objectives, and priorities. Operational-level plans merge the on-scene tactical concerns with overall strategic objectives. Tactical plans include detailed, specific actions and descriptions of resources required to manage an actual or potential incident. Contingency plans are based on specific scenarios and planning assumptions related to a geographic area or the projected impacts of an individual hazard. The following is a brief description of EOP-related documents.

National Incident Management System

The NIMS provides a core set of doctrine, concepts, terminology, and organizational processes to enable effective, efficient, and collaborative incident management at all

levels.

State and Local Emergency Operations Plans

State and local emergency operations plans are created to address a variety of hazards. Examples include:

- State emergency operations plans designed to support State emergency management functions.
- Emergency operations plans created at the municipal level to complement State emergency operations plans.

Hazard Mitigation Plans

Hazard mitigation plans are developed by States and communities to provide a framework for understanding vulnerability to and risk from hazards, and identifying the pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation measures to reduce the risk from those hazards. Multihazard mitigation planning requirements were established by Congress through the Stafford Act, as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Private Sector Plans

Private sector plans are developed by privately owned companies/corporations. Some planning efforts are mandated by statute (e.g., nuclear power plant operations), while others are developed to ensure business continuity.

Nongovernmental and Volunteer Organization Plans

Volunteer and nongovernmental organization plans are plans created to support State and Federal emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations. Plans include a continuous process of assessment, evaluation, and preparation to ensure that the necessary authorities, organization, resources, coordination, and operation procedures exist to provide effective delivery of services to disaster clients as well as provide integration into planning efforts at all government levels.

Planning and Operations Procedures

Procedures provide operational guidance for use by emergency teams and other personnel involved in conducting or supporting incident management operations.

These documents fall into five basic categories:

- Overviews that provide a brief concept summary of an incident management function, team, or capability;
- Standard operating procedures (SOPs) or operations manuals that provide a complete reference document, detailing the procedures for performing a single function (i.e., SOP) or a number of interdependent functions (i.e., operations

manual);

- Field operations guides or handbooks that are produced as a durable pocket or desk guide, containing essential tactical information needed to perform specific assignments or functions;
- Point of contact lists; and
- Job aids such as checklists or other tools for job performance or job training.